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CLASSIFICATION STORET

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

25X1A

## INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY

Bulgaria

DATE DISTR. 21 Merch 1951

SUBJECT

Merchant Shipping; Air Raid Proparations at Varna; Tobacco Purchases

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PLACE **ACQUIRED** 

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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SOURCE

The Bulgarian merchant ships GORNIANIN and RILA arrived at Istanbul to unload lumber.

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2. Bulgarian officials are reportedly becoming very strict with merchant ship captains because of black market operations and damage to their ships. The former captain of the RILA was tried approximately one month ago and sentenced

to life imprisonment for sabotaging his ship. Another captain has become over-cautious, often seeking shelter from storms and bad weather in Greek waters (without the permission or knowledge of the Greeks) in order to avoid

similar charges.

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- 3. One of the merchant ship crew members intensive anti-air raid preparations are being made in Stalin (Varna). Womens groups have been formed for training in handling incendiary bomb fires, first aid, et cetera.
- The Bulgarians are currently engaged in purchasing Turkish "American Grade" tobacco through an agent in Istanbul for re-sale to Germany.

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